

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

GILA AND SALT RIVER DRAINAGES IN ARIZONA

Special Supplemental Report

January 15, 1945

Precipitation: Precipitation over northern Arizona, October to December, 1944, inclusive, was 3.39 inches as compared with 2.81 inches for this same period, 1943. The amount 3.39 inches is only 0.06 below normal for this section of the state. So far in January the rainfall has been of no consequence, as reported by the U.S. Weather Bureau. Forest Supervisor Nave, Prescott National Forest reports that since the first of November there has been more precipitation than ordinarily, mostly in the form of slow rains. In the Prescott area the soil was extremely dry during this past fall and absorbed the greater part of the precipitation. Forest Supervisor Ewing, Apache National Forest, Springerville, reports the rainfall over the past months as below normal and soil moisture generally deficient throughout eastern Arizona. However, on the White Mountain Indian Reservation soil conditions are fair to good as reported by Ward Kindred. Stream flow is somewhat below normal for this time of year.

Snow Cover: At this time the snow cover in the mountain areas, Gila and Salt River drainages, is generally light, especially for elevations below 6,000 to 8,000 feet. There is about 10 inches of snow on the north slopes above 6,000 feet in the Prescott area and in the vicinity of Springerville there is no snow below elevations 8,000 feet and spotted cover on the higher areas. The snow depth on the Apache National Forest courses is more than twice that of last year at this time and contains three times the amount of water. On the White Mountain Indian Reservation conditions are reversed, the snow depth is only about one-half and water content seven eighths as compared with last year. On Taylor Creek, Upper Gila, in December, the higher north slopes were reported to be covered, subzero temperatures and low soil moisture conditions.

Reservoir storage: On January 15, storage in the principal reservoirs of the Salt River Valley Water Users Association was 860,000 acre-feet. A year ago it was 1,050,000 acre-feet. San Carlos reservoir has 91,700 acre-feet in storage at the present time which is about 1/3 of that of a year ago. The water content of the snow cover on the headwaters of the Gila and Salt River is somewhat greater than a year ago. As based on water storage in snow, the runoff for reservoir filling is more promising than it was last year at this time.

Summary of Snow Surveys, January 15, 1945 (Arizona and New Mexico Courses)

Snow Course	Location	Drainage	Snow Depth			Water Content		
			Inches			Inches		
			January 15			January 15		
			1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945
Frisco Divide	6 m. S. Luna	Blue R.	4.3	4.4	8.7	0.3	0.9	2.6
State Line	5 m. W. Luna	"	7.7	5.4	11.3	1.3	1.1	3.0
Nutriso	4 m. N. Alpine	San Fran. R.	4.5	2.2	5.3	1.1	0.3	1.6
Beaver Head	11m. SW. Alpine	Castle Cr.	6.7	1.7	9.3	1.8	0.5	2.6
Coronado Trail	4 m. S. Alpine	Coleman Cr.	7.3	6.1	8.2	2.1	1.3	2.3
McNary	3 m. NW. McNary	Salt R.	0.0	7.5	5.7	0.0	1.5	2.2
Forestdale	5 m. SW. Snowlow	" "	0.0	3.4	1.0	0.0	0.7	0.5
Milk Ranch	4m. W. McNary	" "	0.0	6.5	0.6	0.0	1.2	0.2
Taylor Creek	13m. NW. Chloride	Gila River	3.7	2.9	--	0.7	0.8	--
		Average	3.8	4.6	6.3	0.9	0.9	1.9

Issued at Fort Collins, Colorado, January 19, 1945, by the Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Indian Service, U.S. Weather Bureau, the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association, San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District and other agencies and irrigation interests.

(4325-45)

